

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An elastically stretchable composite sheet, comprising:
 - a first web having x- and y-directions orthogonal to each other and being elastically stretchable at least in said y-direction; and
 - a second web ~~made of~~ comprising thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers and being inelastically stretchable in said y-direction, said first and second webs being bonded to each other in bonding zones intermittently arranged distributed in said y-direction;

wherein

A/

a length of each of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers that extends bonded to ~~said first web~~ measured between each pair of the adjacent bonding zones where said thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber is bonded to said first web is longer than a straight distance defined between said pair of the adjacent bonding zones; wherein:

said first web is a fibrous web comprising component fibers of elastic material; and

each of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers has a ~~has in its cross-section~~ taken in a direction orthogonal to its a longitudinal direction of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber, said cross section having a width w and a height h, as measured in orthogonal directions, to said width w dimensioned so that a ratio of h/w is less than 0.5.
2. (currently amended) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said cross section is ~~fiber~~ presents a substantially rectangular cross-section having a long side that defines ~~of which the width is defined as~~ as said width w and a short side that defines the height ~~is defined as~~ as said height h.
3. (currently amended) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said cross section is ~~fiber~~ presents a substantially triangular cross-section having a ~~of which the~~ base that defines ~~is defined as~~ as said width w and the a height that defines ~~is defined as~~ as said height h.
4. (currently amended) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said second web further comprises sections of unsplit conjugate fibers, said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers is obtained ~~by branching from or dividing the conjugating conjugate~~

~~fibers which comprise comprising at least two types of thermoplastic synthetic resin that are splittable into said thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers each made of to separate fiber comprising each one of said types of resin.~~

5. (currently amended) A process ~~for of~~ making an elastically stretchable composite sheet ~~comprising a first web having x and y directions orthogonal to each other and being elastically stretchable at least in said y direction and a second web made of thermoplastic synthetic resin fibers and being inelastically stretchable in said y direction, said first and second webs being bonded to each other in bonding zones intermittently arranged in said y direction wherein a length of said thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber bonded to said first web measured between each pair of the adjacent bonding zones is longer than a straight distance defined between said pair of the adjacent bonding zones, said process comprising the steps of:~~

- a. continuously feeding ~~a~~ said first web of elastic material in ~~said y direction~~ a direction;
- b. obtaining a plurality of conjugated fibers each comprising at least two types of thermoplastic synthetic resin ~~that are separable from each other, and being dividable into said at least two types of resin by melt spinning~~ and then continuously feeding an assembly of said conjugated fibers ~~in the form of web~~ in ~~said y direction~~ for said second web direction as a second web;
- c. placing ~~said first web and said second web of said~~ conjugated fibers ~~for said second web~~ upon each other and bonding ~~these two said first and second webs together in bonding zones arranged intermittently in said direction y direction~~ to form a composite web;
- d. stretching ~~said composite web in said direction with a sufficient stress to split said y direction and obtaining said second web from said web of conjugated fibers up into split fibers of said types of thermoplastic synthetic resin~~; and
- e. allowing contracting ~~said stretched composite web to contact~~ obtain ~~said composite sheet~~.

6. (currently amended) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising a step of continuously feeding ~~said composite web in stretched or contracted state and~~

subjecting said conjugated fibers to high pressure columnar water streams discharged from a plurality of nozzles to split divide each of said conjugated fibers up into said split fibers.

7. (currently amended) The process according to Claim 5, wherein each of the split divided or branched fibers obtained in the step of stretching said composite web or in the step of subjecting said conjugated fibers to the high pressure columnar water streams has a cross-section cut taken in a direction orthogonal to the a longitudinal direction of said split fiber conjugated fiber, said cross-section being defined by a width w and a height h, and wherein a ratio of h/w, i.e., said height h to said width w is less than 0.5.

8. (new) The process according to Claim 5, wherein the step of obtaining said conjugate fibers comprises melt-spinning.

9. (new) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing said first web which is a fibrous web comprising component fibers made of said elastic material.

10. (new) The process according to Claim 9, wherein the step of providing said first web includes

discharging said component fibers from an extruder; and
mechanically entangling or welding or adhesively bonding said component fibers with each other to form said first web.

11. (new) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing said first web which is a non-woven fabric.

12. (new) The process according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of providing said first web which is a woven fabric.

13. (new) The process according to Claim 5, wherein said direction is a machine direction of said composite sheet.

14. (new) The process according to Claim 5, wherein said at least two types of thermoplastic synthetic resin have different stretchability degrees, allowing said conjugate fibers to split in said stretching step.

Serial No. 09/941,566

15. (new) The process according to Claim 5, consisting essentially of steps a) through e).

16. (new) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said first web is a non-woven fabric.

17. (new) The composite sheet according to Claim 1, wherein said first web is a woven fabric.

18. (new) The composite sheet according to Claim 4, wherein the sections of unsplit conjugate fibers are bonded to said 1 web in said bonding zones.